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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/797,666

03/08/2004

James M. Brugger

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EXAMINER

HAND, MELANIE JO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3761

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/12/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/797,666

Applicant(s)

BRUGGER ET AL.

Examiner

Melanie J. Hand

Art Unit

3761

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 16 August 2007 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.

b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because

(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);

(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);

(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or

(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).

5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.

6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: _____.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).

9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).

10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.

12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____

13. ☐ Other: _____.

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

MJH

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant argues that Truitt does not teach a sensor configured to sense pressure in said non-blood side of said filter, and a controller...to maintain a constant pressure in said arterial blood line by regulating a speed of an arterial pump in response to said pressure signal". First, it is understood herein that applicant set "arterial" in brackets because applicant is aware that this limitation is not present in claim 6. Second, the phrase "to maintain a constant pressure in said arterial blood line" is functional language that is given little patentable weight herein. The limitation, for the purpose of only examining those limitations with patentable weight, is read by the Office as "a controller connected to receive a pressure signal from said sensor, said controller being configured to regulate a speed of said pump in response to said pressure signal". Truitt does teach this in Col. 6, lines 12-14, where Truitt teaches pressure sensor 83 for monitoring pressure in secondary chamber 46, i.e. the non-blood side of filter 40. Truitt then teaches in Col. 6, lines 43-54 and 61-65 that a signal from pressure sensor 83 is received by monitor computer 104 which then sends its own communication based on the data from sensor 83 to control computer 102, which then supplies control signals based on this received signal from the monitor computer 104 to control operation of pumps 52, 62, 66, 78 and 84. The Office interprets the teaching "control the operation of the pumps" to mean controlling or regulating the speeds of the pumps, as the operation or output of the pump is always a sole result of the pump's speed. The limitation of claim 9 referred to by applicant, "a controller with a sensor to detect pressure on the non-filter side and to vary a rate of flow of the pump such that a constant predefined pressure is maintained in the arterial blood line" is considered herein to flow inherently and necessarily from the teachings of Truitt, since Truitt meets all of the claim limitations of claim 9, specifically a controller and a sensor that together regulate the speed of the pump. It is interpreted that by teaching such a system, the problem sought to be solved by Truitt is providing a system that maintains a desired, constant predefined pressure, according to a particular patient's treatment plan.